

and Thailand and Vietnam's agreement to jointly develop areas of the Gulf of Thailand for gas exports, despite ongoing territorial disputes;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of the Philippines states that it "has exhausted almost all political and diplomatic avenues for a peaceful negotiated settlement of its maritime dispute with China" and in his statement of January 23, 2013, Republic of Philippines Secretary of Foreign Affairs Del Rosario stated that therefore "the Philippines has taken the step of bringing China before the Arbitral Tribunal under Article 287 and Annex VII of the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea in order to achieve a peaceful and durable solution to the dispute";

Whereas, in January 2013, a Chinese naval ship allegedly fixed its weapons-targeting radar on Japanese vessels in the vicinity of the Senkaku islands, and, on April 23, 2013, eight Chinese marine surveillance ships entered the 12-nautical-mile territorial zone off the Senkaku Islands, further escalating regional tensions;

Whereas, on May 8, 2013, the Chinese Communist Party's main newspaper, *The People's Daily*, published an article by several Chinese scholars questioning Japan's sovereignty over Okinawa, where key United States military installations are located which contribute to preserving security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has recently taken other unilateral steps, including declaring the Senkaku Islands a "core interest", "improperly drawing" baselines around the Senkaku Islands in September 2012, which the 2013 Annual Report to Congress on Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China found to be "inconsistent with international law", and maintaining a continuous military and paramilitary presence around the Senkaku Islands;

Whereas, although the United States does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, the United States Government acknowledges that they are under the administration of Japan and opposes any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine such administration, affirms that the unilateral actions of a third party will not affect the United States' acknowledgment of the administration of Japan over the Senkaku Islands, remains committed under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security to respond to any armed attack in the territories under the administration of Japan, and has urged all parties to take steps to prevent incidents and manage disagreements through peaceful means;

Whereas, on August 3, 2012, a Department of State spokesperson expressed concern over "China's upgrading of the administrative level of Sansha City and the establishment of a new military garrison there," encouraged ASEAN and China "to make meaningful progress toward finalizing a comprehensive Code of Conduct," and called upon claimants to "explore every diplomatic or other peaceful avenue for resolution, including the use of arbitration or other international legal mechanisms as needed";

Whereas the United States recognizes the importance of strong, cohesive, and integrated regional institutions, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, as foundation for effective regional frameworks to promote peace and security and economic growth, including in the maritime domain, and to ensure that the Asia-Pacific community develops rules-based regional norms which discourage coercion and the use of force;

Whereas the United States welcomes the development of a peaceful and prosperous China, the government of which respects international norms, international laws, international institutions, and international rules; enhances security and peace; and seeks to advance a "new model" of relations between the United States and China; and

Whereas ASEAN plays an important role, in partnership with others in the regional and international community, in addressing maritime security issues in the Asia-Pacific region and into the Indian Ocean, including open access to the maritime domain of Asia; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the use of coercion, threats, or force by naval, maritime security, or fishing vessels and military or civilian aircraft in the South China Sea and the East China Sea to assert disputed maritime or territorial claims or alter the status quo;

(2) strongly urges that all parties to maritime and territorial disputes in the region exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would undermine stability or complicate or escalate disputes, including refraining from inhabiting presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other features and handle their differences in a constructive manner;

(3) reaffirms the strong support of the United States for the member states of ASEAN and the Government of the People's Republic of China as they seek to develop a code of conduct of parties in the South China Sea, and urges all countries to substantively support ASEAN in its efforts in this regard;

(4) supports collaborative diplomatic processes by all claimants in the South China Sea for resolving outstanding maritime or territorial disputes, in a manner that maintains peace and security, adheres to international law, and protects unimpeded lawful commerce as well as freedom of navigation and overflight, and including through international arbitration, allowing parties to peacefully settle claims and disputes using universally recognized principles of international law;

(5) encourages the deepening of efforts by the United States Government to develop partnerships with other countries in the region for maritime domain awareness and capacity building; and

(6) supports the continuation of operations by the United States Armed Forces in the Western Pacific, including in partnership with the armed forces of other countries in the region, in support of freedom of navigation, the maintenance of peace and stability, and respect for universally recognized principles of international law, including the peaceful resolution of issues of sovereignty and unimpeded lawful commerce.

## NOTICES OF HEARINGS

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has been postponed. This hearing was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2013, at 10 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing was to receive testimony on the November 6, 2012, referendum on the political status of Puerto Rico and the administration's response.

For further information, please contact Allen Stayman at (202) 224-7865 or Danielle Deraney at (202) 224-1219.

### COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, in SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Davita Vance-Cooks, of Virginia, to be the Public Printer.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Lynden Armstrong at the Rules and Administration Committee, (202) 224-6352.

### COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship will meet on June 13, 2013, at 10 a.m. in room 428A, Russell Senate Office Building to hold a markup of pending legislation.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, June 10, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. in room S-216.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Emily Sharp, Michael Branson, Mike Oleyar, Teresa Bloom, fellows from the Senate Budget Committee, be granted floor privileges during consideration of S. 744.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that fellows in Senator BLUMENTHAL's office, Afton Cissell and Sean Arenson, be granted floor privileges for the duration of debate on S. 744.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair grant privileges of the floor to Joseph McCormack of the Budget Committee for the remainder of the first session of the 113th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## ORDER FOR PRINTING OF TRIBUTES

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that tributes to Frank Lautenberg, the late Senator from New Jersey, be printed as a Senate document and that Members have until 12 noon on Thursday, June 20, to submit said tributes.